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MORE REVELATIONS ABOUT BEGINNING OF CHECHEN WAR. On 7 February Interfax continued to publish excerpts from the 27-page report on the Chechen war by presidential advisers Emil Pain and Arkady Popov. The survey says Dudaev was able to arm his forces by giving large payoffs to "smart traders clad in military uniform." The authors reject the theses that weapons were plundered by Dudaev's militants or extorted from Russian servicemen under duress. The survey calls for further research into the question of who supplied the Dudaev regime with sophisticated weapons, such as anti-aircraft weapons and rocket launchers. Investigators must also examine how Dudaev was able to export oil through Russian pipelines and use the money to buy weapons, and why the federal authorities allowed special flights into and out of Grozny for suspicious cargoes when international agencies warned that illicit drugs were being shipped through Chechnya. Many in Moscow may have received kickbacks, the authors conclude. -- Robert Orttung, OMRI, Inc.

NEARLY 5,000 MILITARY CASUALTIES IN CHECHNYA. Russian federal troops have suffered nearly 5,000 casualties in Chechnya, Interfax reported on 6 and 7 February, quoting "power" ministry sources. Some 907 have been killed in action, while more than 3,400 troops have been wounded and another 456 are either missing in action or unidentified dead. The Ground Forces have suffered the heaviest losses, with 537 servicemen killed and around 2,000 wounded. At the same time, a group of experts headed by Russian Human Rights Commissioner Sergei Kovalev estimated that 25,000 civilians have been killed in Grozny. Ostankino's "Vremya" estimated that about 195,000 people have fled their homes as a result of the fighting. -- Doug Clarke and Julia Wishnevsky, OMRI, Inc.

BOROVOI PEACE PROPOSAL. Economic Freedom Party Chairman Konstantin Borovoi told a news conference in Moscow on 7 February that he had sent President Boris Yeltsin a proposal for a new Chechen peace plan comprising a ceasefire, a Russian troop withdrawal, and the establishment of a demilitarized zone, but had received no response. Borovoi, who reportedly met with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudaev near Grozny on 2 February, predicted that Russian troops in Chechnya would soon be defeated, and that Chechnya would gain international recognition "within a few months," Interfax reported. -- Liz Fuller, OMRI, Inc.

RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CONTENDS COUNCIL OF EUROPE OVERREACTED. The Council of Europe overreacted to the Chechnya events when it voted to defer Russia's application, Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigorii Karasin told Interfax on 7 February. He said Russia's candidacy should be considered in a broader perspective. In that context, he mentioned Russia's cooperation with the OSCE mission to Chechnya. Expressing a contrary view, Irina Khakamada, leader of the 12 December Liberal Democratic Union faction in parliament, said, "The Russian parliamentary delegation did an incredible thing in achieving adoption in Strasbourg of a 'softened' resolution by the Council of Europe on the situation around Chechnya." She said the speech by Human Rights Commissioner Sergei Kovalev was instrumental in "changing the sentiments of European MPs," who "were shocked by the position taken by Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who spoke like an open adherent of government actions in Chechnya." -- Michael Mihalka, OMRI, Inc.

IMF FAILS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON LOAN WITH RUSSIA. The IMF failed to reach an agreement with Russia in the latest round of talks on a $6.4 billion standby loan, but both Russian and IMF officials remain optimistic, international agencies reported...